

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABU DH 02197 280745Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----109881 281321Z /47

R 280550Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6435
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 2197

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, US, IS
SUBJ: BEGIN VISIT

REF: STATE 171271

1. I BRIEFED MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS GHUBBASH JULY 27 ON
BEGIN VISIT TO US. I HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED VISIT WITH FONMIN
SUWAIDI JULY 20 BUT AT TIME HAD ONLY WIRELESS FILE TO DRAW UPON.
HAD PROMISED SUWAIDI WE WOULD PASS ON TO HIM (OR
GHUBBASH) ANYTHING OF SUBSTANCE.

2. AFTER LISTENING TO ME RECITE POINTS SET FORTH REFTTEL,
GHUBBASH COULD NOT SEE THAT VISIT HAD PRODUCED ANY
TANGIBLE RESULTS. NO ONE DOUBTED US ADMINISTRATION'S GOOD
INTENTIONS AND DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD TOWARD GENEVA CON-
SECRET

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REFERENCE. BUT HE THOUGHT BEGIN HAD THROWN OUT A VERY SMALL
BONE INDEED IF ONLY SIGNIFICANT THING TO COME FROM VISIT WAS
ISRAELI WILLINGNESS HAVE THIRD PARTY SHUTTLE AMONG THREE
MIXED COMMISSIONS IN SAME HOTEL IF PROCEDURAL PROBLEM OF
PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION CANNOT BE OVERCOME. HOWEVER,
HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR OTHER ARAB STATES NOR DID HE HAVE ANY
IDEA WHETHER THEY WOULD FIND THIS PROPOSAL ACCEPTABLE. ALL

THAT HE COULD SEE AS RESULT OF VISIT WAS THAT BEGIN HAD BEEN VERY SKILLFUL IN AVOIDING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, IN MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN FAVORABLY TO AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, AND IN GAINING A COMMITMENT FROM THE US TO RELEASE OF STILL MORE ARMS.

3. PERHAPS IT WAS RESULT OF ABU DHABI'S UNUSUALLY INTENSE HEAT OF PAST WEEK, BUT GHUBBASH SEEMED DISCOURAGED BY ME PROSPECTS. HE THOUGHT BEGIN'S POSITION WAS EXACTLY SAME AS PLO. BEGIN REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF HOMELAND FOR PALESTINIANS IN WEST BANK AND GAZA JUST AS PLO REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF HOMELAND FOR JEWS IN ISRAEL. ONLY DIFFERENCE WAS THAT ISRAELIS NOT CONDEMNED IN WEST FOR THEIR INTRANSIGENCE AS WAS PLO. NOR COULD HE SEE WHAT HAD BEEN GAINED BY NEW ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL. THAT COUNTRY ALREADY HAS MORE MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND TANKS THAN BRITAIN AND FRANCE COMBINED, SO THAT NO ONE COULD DOUBT ITS CRUSHING MILITARY SUPERIORITY. WHILE PROCEDURAL GIMMICKS MIGHT BE WORKED OUT TO ALLOW FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD ACHIEVE ANYTHING UNLESS ONE OR OTHER SIDE BLINKED TO OVERCOME ESSENTIAL ISSUE OF ISRAELIS AND PLO NOT RECOGNIZING EACH OTHER'S EXISTENCE. HE DID NOT SEE ARABS PUTTING PRESSURE ON PLO JUST AS HE DID NOT SEE US PUTTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO ACHIEVE THIS.
DICKMAN

SECRET

NNN

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